

Brethren Evangelist.

"LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION."

VOLUME XVI.

ASHLAND, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1894

NO. 41.

Brethren * Evangelist.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF

The Brethren Church.

BY THE

Brethren Book and Tract Committee.
ASHLAND, OHIO.

For terms, instruction, etc., see page 16.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We have received numerous inquiries concerning the missing numbers of the EVANGELIST. About all the letters received give evidence of the spirit of forbearance and we greatly appreciate the kindly feeling toward us. We know it is annoying to miss two successive numbers of the church paper, but circumstances over which we had no control whatever, made it impossible to get out an issue of the paper any sooner.

It is gratifying to note the successful work that is being done by the churches throughout the Brotherhood. Reports of revival efforts and accessions are coming in daily, and we predict a grand harvest of souls during the fall and winter. Our people seem to be wide awake and ready to embrace the opportunity the present affords to advance the kingdom of righteousness among men. Pastors and evangelists will find this a good time to look after the interests of the paper. New members coming into the church should be asked to take the EVANGELIST. It will keep them informed on the work of the church, its doctrines, etc., will greatly help them in their service for the Master. See our announcement on page 16.

The Christian should be a *happy* man. If there is one man in the universe who has a right to true happiness, it is the man whose life is hid in God through Christ, who enjoys the infinite blessing of divine forgiveness. What is there that should make him gloomy and despondent? The outward life of the Christian—his words and deeds, his very countenance, should be an expression of that inward peace which only Christ can give. The following from the Rev. Theo. Cuyler is well worth repeating:

A well-lighted Christian ought to fling out the steady rays of cheerfulness. An

irritable temper is a sin; and a gloomy, morose, desponding temper is a libel on a Christian profession. "Rejoice in the Lord *always*" is the injunction of the Holy Spirit. Dark, foggy days are not as heavenly as clear, sunny days. The natural note of a bird is not a shriek or a groan, but a song. When a young man or woman is converted, their companions ought not to say, "how mopy they have become;" rather, they should say, "how cordial and happy and kind they are; their religion seems to sweeten them." It was into a world, not only of moral darkness, but into a world full of difficulties and trials and tears and depressing influences, that Christ sent His disciples with the injunction, "Let your light *shine*!" And I'll warrant that the house of Lydia, and the home of Cornelius, and the tent-maker's shop at Corinth, were as much brightened by the advent of Peter and of Paul as was that dreary old dungeon of Philippi when Christ's two cheerful prisoners sang praises to God at midnight.

In the *Independent* of October 25th, a contributor, with due reverence, calls Christ the chief of capitalists. We admit there is truth in his statements and the application made of the principle most timely.

"A capitalist is one who, by some means, is the possessor of the sources of wealth, or of the forces of production, or of the means of distribution, and who, by virtue of his possessions, is made superior to his fellows. A capitalist is also one who is possessed of such capacity and power that he is able to organize, command and control men, and who is gifted with such foresight as enables him to direct affairs to the fulfillment of his purposes and the accomplishment of his plans.

Christ, therefore, by whom all things have been created, by whom all things consist, unto whom is given all power in Heaven and in earth, who is the heir of all things and who must reign until all enemies are put under his feet, is the chief, and should be the captain of all capitalists."

How does Christ use these powers and possessions? Not for his own glory, not that he might obtain more, but that he might bless and enrich those who serve him. He emptied himself of his riches and the glory he had with the Father that he might come into the world to save us. "Christ stoops to serve, suffers to save, and rules to raise and enrich and glorify his servants." And this blessed spirit of

the Master should be possessed by all who claim to be his followers. If capitalists should conduct their business on this principle there would be far less friction between capital and labor. The talent of every man, be he preacher or capitalist, teacher or farmer is the gift of God, and should be used as the giver may direct. An acceptance of this principle as a ruling principle in the world of business will solve the much agitated social problems of the age.

FRIENDS THAT STAND.

In this world of change and uncertainty it is a great privilege to have among one's acquaintances some friends who stand by through sunshine and storm the same, who never flinch. It is worth a great deal to a Christian man or woman to have such friends who do not swerve to the right or to the left, who are loyal to the last degree and are able to see further than the mere present. We all can have such friends, and a large number of people do have them. Sometimes we do not appear to appreciate how good God is in giving us such friendships and we ought to remember that we have a work to do in this direction as well.

There are friends and friends. We often hear of people who at one time were not only close friends, but almost inseparable, who are now estranged. But how much it means when friends can be so frank with each other and so open hearted that they are able to pray over the trials and the successes alike, able to take criticism from each other! How blessed it is that these conditions can exist! Such friendships are well worth cultivating. It is the way for Christians to live, and if we have not thus far known what it is to be surrounded by such friends and to help surround others with such friendships, we have not begun to understand our privileges as Christians.

An old man who had passed through much adversity said not long since, "I have learned to appreciate the value of true friendship. I know what it is to have friends and know what it is to think I have friends when I have not; but thank God, these last have been in the minority. The true friends have rallied around me in adversity and have even been more friendly and more helpful than in the time of prosperity. It is worth a great deal to me to look around and see the goodness of God in supplying me with such human help."

Having human friends is a part of God's plan. Of course, first comes God's friendship and next the friendship of His people, whom He uses as instruments in His hands of ministering one to the other.